

THE EXPLORER THAT DISCOVERED TYRUS R. COBB RANKS WITH CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS COBB WAS REGULAR BUSHY WHEN FOUND IN "BUSH" CIRCUIT

Clyde Engle Had Call on Famous Georgian, Relates Wild Bill Donovan in New Story on Discovery of Star Outfielder

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

THIS is a new story of the discovery of Cap'n Ty Cobb. It was told by Wild Willyum Donovan, the new manager of Jersey City, at the Olympia the other night. Willyum was glad to discuss baseball or anything, just to keep awake.

"It was 'way back in 1905 when Detroit was training in Augusta, Ga., and the future cap'n in our army was a regular bushy. Ty attracted little attention, for he was a terrible fielder and tried to run through the fence in every game. Hughie Jennings used to laugh every time Cobb ran out on the field, for there was nothing about him that even suggested a future star. His hitting was of the bush league variety, and when an outfielder can't hit it's time to forget all about him.

"Detroit had a chance that year to get Cobb for nothing, for the Augusta club had made a deal with Jennings whereby he would have the privilege of selecting any player on the team if his ball club did its spring training in Augusta. To show what a hit Cobb made, Clyde Engle, the insider, was chosen and Tyrus the Great allowed to remain in the tall grass. Engle, by the way, was a good player and afterward went to Boston, where he knocked that high fly in the world series in 1912 which was muffed by Fred Snodgrass.

"I never forgot Cobb," said Donovan, "for one day when I was pitching he hit a ball to me and I had to run toward third base to field it. It wasn't a hard-hit ball, so I took my time, but before I could straighten up to throw to first you can imagine my surprise when I saw that bushy roosting on the bag. Never before had I seen such speedily traveling toward first base, and I remembered it.

"Later in the season one of our outfielders went bad and I suggested to Jennings that he take a chance with that fast guy down in Augusta. Jennings wired down there and a reply came back that Cobb would not be sent North unless the Detroit club purchased him for \$750. President Navin sent them the money and Cobb was signed by Detroit.

"THE first year, as you know, Ty did not set the world afire, but barely got by. There was a noticeable improvement the next season, and now look at him. At the same time, I attribute the speedy journey to first base that day in Augusta to Cobb's joining the Detroit club."

Messenger Was Speedy, but Only for a Day

EVERY year we read of future Ty Cobbs in the training camps, who always blow up on the northern journey and never see the big league ball park. One of the greatest disappointments was a player named Bob Messenger, who once performed for the Chicago White Sox. Bob was discovered some place in New England, and Ted Sullivan, the scout, sent in glowing reports about his speed and all-around ability. He finally was given a chance and he made good—on one day only. Out of four times at bat he had three hits, got a base on balls and ran wild on the footpaths. He swiped all the bases lying around loose and his work was the talk of the town.

That night Sullivan, with his chest out, complimented himself on the wonderful discovery. He told the newspaper men how the deed was done and quoted a couple of columns of real live stuff. However, the cloud did not have a silver lining and Scout Sullivan stubbed his toe three days later.

By that time the opposing pitchers learned that Messenger couldn't hit a curved ball, and he was handed that delivery. Time after time he whiffed, and at the end of the third day the second Ty Cobb was handed his release. This furnished more news for the scribes and Sullivan was asked for another story.

"Messenger?" he asked. "Who is that guy? Never heard of him. Never saw him until he showed up here. A terrible flivver. Wonder where he came from?"

And they say baseball scouts are wise persons when they try to get away with a stunt like that.

Ted Sullivan also pulled a good one when he discovered John Collins, another product of the New England League. Ted said Collins was the greatest second baseman he ever had seen, and to show what a good guess he made John never has played the position since joining the White Sox.

HE HAS been in the outfield, with an occasional fling at first base, when the regular player is on the sidelines.

Erskine Mayer Boosts Hamilton, Pirate Southpaw

ONE-TIME wearer of the Philly uniform dropped into the office yesterday. It had been a long time since this one-time laborer for Pat Moran, Bill Baker and the rest strolled in to see us. Erskine Mayer, sideman heaver, deceptive tosser and other things, came unannounced. Erskine no longer works for Bill Baker and the Phils. At present he is unsigned, but is the property of the Pittsburgh Pirates. "Erik" had a good word for every one, even Pat Moran, who engineered his course toward Pittsburgh. Mayer is anxious for the season to open, wants to get to a training camp early, even if it is only to West Baden, Ind.

Barney Dreyfuss forwarded Erskine a contract which called for monthly payments. This didn't make a hit with the star pitcher, who happened to have a very good season in 1918, and Erskine promptly returned the papers unsigned. However, a little thing like monthly agreements, if made lucrative for the season, will not keep Mayer away from the Pirates. It will be recalled that he won nine straight games after he joined the Pittsburgh camp, and three of these were at the expense of the Phils.

"And don't overlook this boy Earl Hamilton," volunteered Mayer. "Just now he looks like the one best left-hander in the game. Last year he was in for a great season, but enlisted right when he was going at his best. I look for him to lead all the left-handers this year. He has a great amount of pace in addition to his other natural pitching qualities. When he was with St. Louis he was good, but now that he is more mature and experienced he rates with the best."

HAMILTON was going on high speed when he suddenly quit the Pirates to enlist last summer. He stopped the leaders and blanked the trailers. His work in the service apparently has done him good and he should have a great year.

Cooper, Star Southpaw, a Hard Worker

COOPER is another southpaw on the payroll of the Pirates. In addition to southpawing for the Pirates, he is a regular pitcher. John McGraw has a motto that if he finds any team he can't beat he'll go right out and buy all the stars on that club. The Giants have found Cooper a very troublesome guy. Now we hear that McGraw plans to concentrate upon southpaw pitching and is very anxious to procure this same Cooper, of the Pirates. Later he may become attached to Hamilton. In this way John can eliminate all competition and danger from a Pirate source.

"The beauty of Cooper is that in addition to being a good pitcher he is also a bear for work," continued Erskine. "Why, I never saw a fellow work as hard as that bird. The moment he sees another pitcher getting pumped a little he grabs his glove and rushes for the bullpen. He is out there in uniform every day. I don't see how he does it. It's against the rules to do so much."

"With Cooper and Hamilton in good form we ought to have a good year. They are a pair of very good southpaws and, make no mistake, they are going to cause plenty of trouble."

Just before Erskine departed a message from Pittsburgh informed us that Billy Southworth, the brilliant young outfielder claimed for a time by the Upland manager, had accepted terms.

"I'm glad to hear this," said "Erik." "He is one of the best young outfielders that has broken into the game in a long time. In addition, he is a natural hitter."

DREYFUSS did not plan to announce anything about his players until he had them all under contract. But so many independent team managers had been annoying Southworth that he requested Dreyfuss to make it known.

SAM MAYER Now Manager of Atlanta Club

SAM MAYER, brother of Erskine, has blossomed forth as a minor league manager. Recently he signed a contract to play the outfield and manage the Atlanta team of the Southern Association. Mayer had a chance to play with the St. Louis Browns, but turned it down to entertain before some gathering. Young Mayer also holds stock in the club.

SAM MAYER'S last appearance in this city was with the Washington club against the Athletics. He played only one game, made a home run, a triple, a double and a single. The next day he was sent to the Federal League.

MOVIE OF A MAN WITH A RAISIN AND A BIT OF YEAST



BASEBALL DATES ARE ANNOUNCED

Interscholastic League Will Get Going April 4; Play Each Team Twice

SEVEN SCHOOLS ENTER

Professor Hill, of the Frankford High School, has compiled the Intercollegiate Baseball League schedule for the coming season. The first game will be played April 4, and the final May 21. To be counted in the league standing all games must be played before June 1.

With one exception, the circuit is the same as that of last season. Due to the combining of the Central High and Trades Schools, the latter will not be represented this year. The members of the league are Central High, West Philadelphia, Northeast, Southern, Frankford, Germantown and Catholic High.

Central Loses Again

STATE ANNOUNCES DATES

Bezdek's Eleven to Play Eight Gridiron Games

Surprise at Palm Beach

Miss Fenn Takes Medal in the Qualifying Round

Golf Win for Gimbel and Strong

Kempton, Yale Star, to Return

Bellevue Favorites Victors

OTHER SPORTS ON PAGE 18

Frigid Weather Fails to Mar Tennis Tourney

Spectators Have Grand Time Seeking "Covered" Spot in Middle States Covered Event

PLAYERS UP IN THE AIR

By ROBERT T. PAUL

QUITE a number of Philadelphia clubmen and others, including three young women, successfully passed the highest degree in the local tennis society or something like that yesterday when they braved the frigid weather and everything to witness the matches in the middle states covered tournament now being conducted on the roof of the John Wanamaker store.

Must Wear Flannels

Wind Gets Decision

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PENN PASSERS PASS INTO FIRST POSITION

Quakers Toss Ball Under Noses of Tigers and Cop Game and League Lead Easily, 37 to 21

SWEENEY HIGH SCORER

Intercollegiate League LAST NIGHT'S SCORE Penn, 37; Princeton, 21

By EDWIN J. POLLOCK

PENN'S basketball passed into first place in the drive for the intercollegiate championship by presenting Princeton with a huge mauling in Weighman Hall last night, 37-21.

Princeton had a splendid system of attack and defense. Everything was all mapped out ahead of time, and Coach Fred Leubing had an elaborate set of signals that moved the Tigers into the right positions on every occasion.

The only thing that interfered with the complete success of the well-planned operations was the Penn team. Gray was supposed to get the tap and knock the ball to a guard or forward, according to the signal.

Penalty System Fails

Two More Swim Stars Join Meadowbrook to Compete Next Season

Two more local swimming stars have joined the ranks of the Meadowbrook Club, and they will compete for the Wanamaker organization in the outdoor events next summer.

Penalty System Fails



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